



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

AUG 31 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

This is a follow-up to the April 23, 2009, letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development announcing bonding authorization granted to the Secretary of the Interior in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. This bonding authority will assist tribal governments in reducing the cost of loans or bonds for construction, rehabilitation, and repair of schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The application deadline for the first \$200 million tranche is November 15, 2009. Further details will be published in an upcoming Federal Register Notice. Advanced notice is being provided to tribes to ensure sufficient time for evaluation of school construction project needs and development of a financing plan.

Prior to beginning the application process, I respectfully encourage you to consider qualified legal consultation to assist in determining if bonding authority would be beneficial to your tribe and to review current tax laws and regulations. All submissions will be reviewed in accordance with Recovery Act provisions.

Information regarding subsequent tranches and deadlines will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

For Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs